UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/032,766	12/26/2001	Jeffrey Rodman	199-0032US	5760

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2143	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary		10/032,766	RODMAN ET AL.
		Examiner	Art Unit
		Jeffrey C. Pwu	2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>*08 February 2006*</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *21-41* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *21-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>*2/8/06, 01/17/03*</u>

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 21-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Detampel, Jr.

et al. (US 5,995,608).

Detampel, Jr. et al. teaches claims :

21. A conference endpoint comprising:

• a telephone line interface for coupling said conference endpoint to a telephone line; (102;

PSTN)

• a network interface for coupling, said conference endpoint to a computer network; (401; user 0

or user n)

• a microphone for generating near speech signals for transmission over said telephone line, said

near speech signals being representative of speech of a near conference participant; (phone;

col.1, lines 10-24)

• a speaker for converting to sound remote speech signals received from a remote device over

said telephone line (col.1, lines 10-24), said remote speech signals being representative of speech

of at least one remote conference participant;

a data conference initiation module, coupled to said network interface and to said telephone line

interface for transmitting a data conference initiation request to a conference server over (101;

col.5, line 51) said computer network, for receiving a data conference code generated by said

conference server, and for responsively transmitting over said telephone line a data conference

invitation to said remote device, said conference invitation including information representative

of said data conference code. (col.7, lines 13-24)

22. The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein said data conference initiation engine

transmits said conference initiation request in response to a predetermined user input. (104)

23. The conference endpoint of claim 21, further comprising a display device coupled to said

network interface for displaying visual information received from said conference server.

(col.11, line 32- "FIG. 7 illustrates the variety of conference control interfaces that are provided

to the subscriber and to the conference participants in Stage 621 of FIG. 6. Conferees may enter

DTMF commands 701 via their telephone keypad, which are conveyed within the audio channel

to the bridge server 101 that is servicing the conference. These commands provide control over

several in-conference options, many of which are supported by prior art conferencing systems. In

the preferred embodiment, these commands include operator recall, participant count, conference

lock/unlock, access to an outside line, and disconnect addressed lines. When a command by a

subscriber or participant is entered, the bridge server 101 conveys a conference status change

message to the CACS Bridge Manager module 310 via BAPI 303. This status change is passed

along to the subscriber interface 306 and then to the HTML/mail server 108, which provides the

status change information to any World Wide Web (WWW) 702 users whose browsers may be

registered for this information. Subscribers can issue similar commands via the WWW interface

702, which commands are passed to the bridge 101 via the HTML/mail server 108, the

subscriber interface 306, and BAPI 303. Non-subscriber participants can view conference status

information on a similar WWW 702 interface on which command features (which are restricted

to the subscriber) are disabled. Additionally, the system supports electronic mail 703 conference

initiation, whereby a specially formatted text message is parsed within the HTML/mail server

108 to extract a conferee list. When this information is received, the subscriber interface 306

instructs the call router 302 to connect the conferees together with the subscriber by initiating the

appropriate SS7 routing messages")

24. The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein the data conference initiation module is further

configured to transmit a conference join request to said conference server over said computer

network responsive to a received conference invitation. (col.10, lines 37-52)

25. The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein said conference invitation comprises

a string of Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) tones. (701)

26. The conference endpoint of claim 21, further comprising a web browser for displaying text

and graphical information received from said conference server. (col.11, line 32-64)

27. The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein the data conference initiation module is further configured for transmitting over said computer network a data conference invitation to said remote device. (col.10, lines 37-52)

28. A method for initiating and managing a data conference from a near conference endpoint, comprising:

establishing a connection over a telephone line with at least one remote conference endpoint;

transmitting a data conference initiation request to a conference server over a computer network:

receiving from the conference server a unique data conference code corresponding to said data conference initiation request; generating an audio signal representative of said conference code; transmitting said audio signal to said at least one remote conference endpoint over said telephone network. (claim 28 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of generating an audio code comprises generating a string of DTMF tones. (701)

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of transmitting a data conference initiation request is performed in response to a predetermined user input. (col.10, lines 37-52)

31. A method for initiating and managing a data conference at a conference server, the method comprising the steps of receiving a conference initiation request from a conference endpoint over a computer network; generating a conference code in response to said conference initiation

request; transmitting said conference code to said conference endpoint over the computer network; maintaining a list of data conference participants based on received data conference join requests from one or more conference endpoints; and transmitting conference data to said data conference participants over said computer network. (claim 31 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the step of transmitting conference data comprises transmitting a web page. (col.11, line 32-64)

33. The method of claim 31, wherein said data is representative of a document. (col.8, lines 2-3)

34. The method of claim 31, wherein said data is representative of a presentation slide. (col.8, lines 2-13)

35. A machine readable medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a machine to perform method steps for coordinating a conference utilizing electronic means, the method steps comprising: transmitting a conference initiation request to a conference server over a computer network; receiving a conference code from said conference server over said computer network in response to said conference initiation request; generating an audio signal representative of said conference code; and transmitting said audio signal to at least one conference endpoint over a telephone line. (claim 35 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)

36. A machine readable medium laving embodied thereon a program, the program: being executable by a machine to perform method steps for coordinating a conference utilizing electronic means, the method steps comprising: receiving an audio signal representative of a conference code from at least one conference endpoint over a telephone line; and transmitting a conference join request including said conference code to a conference server over a computer network in response to receiving said audio signal. (claim 36 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)

37. A conference endpoint comprising:

a telephone line interface for coupling the conference endpoint to a telephone line;

a network interface for coupling the conference endpoint to a computer network;

a microphone for generating near speech signals for transmission over the telephone line, the near speech signals being representative of speech of a near conference participant;

a speaker box converting to sound remote speech signals received from a remote device over the telephone line, the remote speech signals being representative of speech of at least one remote conference participant; and a data conference initiation module coupled to the network interface and the telephone line interface and configured to receive over the telephone tine interface from a remote conference endpoint a conference invitation including information representative of a data conference code and further configured to transmit a conference join request to a conference server over the computer network in response to the received conference invitation. (claim 37 is similarly rejected as in claim 21)

38. The conference endpoint of claim 37 further comprising a display device coupled to the network interface for displaying visual information received from the conference server. (col.11, line 32-64)

39. The conference endpoint of claim 37 wherein the conference invitation comprises a string of dual tone multi-frequency (DTMF) tones. (701)

40. The conference endpoint of claim 37 further comprising a web browser for displaying text and graphical information received from the conference server. (col.11, line 32-64)

41. The conference endpoint of claim 37, wherein the data conference initiation module is further configured for receiving over said computer network a data conference invitation from the remote conference endpoint. (col.10, lines 37-52)

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this

final action.

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Jeffrey C. Pwu whose telephone number is 571-272-6798. If

attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David

Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this

application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

4/11/06

JEFFREY PWU
PRIMARY EXAMINE